

HOW TO FIND THE TRUE RELIGION.

No one who mixes in the world can fail to notice a very remarkable fact—remarkable, at least, in a country which calls itself Christian. It is this: two-thirds of the men one meets have no fixed religious belief, and belong to no church. Approach them on the subject, and they at once exclaim:

“Yes, of course it is

THE DUTY OF MAN TO WORSHIP GOD;

but in our day there are so many contradictory opinions concerning religious faith that one is bewildered and does not know what to believe. We have neither the knowledge nor the time to make a thorough study of the Bible, which, after all, would be to no purpose, for they who study it most agree least as to its meaning.

WE THEREFORE CANNOT HAVE ANY RELIGION,

or belong to any church, nor can we recommend any to others.”

Now, let us ask these men to pause a moment, and inquire whether there is not a simple and certain way of discovering

THE TRUE RELIGION.

The true religion is not, and cannot be, a thing of recent invention. The world can never have been without it. In the beginning, God gave to Adam a knowledge of His holy will, and taught him how he should worship his Creator. The religion of Adam came directly from God; it was, then, beyond all doubt, the true religion. At this time

THERE WAS NO BIBLE,

no written code of religious doctrine and law. How then, **was** religious faith preserved and perpetuated in its purity? *In a very simple way.* The father of the family was also clothed **with** religious authority, and the children learned the truths of faith by hearkening to the voice *of this living teacher.*

This was the method employed down to the time of the deluge. How were false religions introduced during this period? *By disobedience to the living authority* established by God.

After the deluge, Noah became the second father of the human race.

HE HAD NO BIBLE,

no book of religion, but taught his children the faith handed down from Adam. His children in turn taught theirs the same truth. Again the children disobeyed the teachings of their fathers, and made religions of their own, so that idolatry became almost universal. Then God called Abraham, who still held to the religion of Adam and of Noah.

ABRAHAM HAD NO BIBLE.

He taught Isaac, Isaac taught Jacob, and thus religion was preserved down to the time of Moses. On Mount Sinai, God gave to Moses the ten commandments written on tables of stone. *Was this written law the rule of faith?* No; God instituted the Sanhedrim, *a religious tribunal*, to which He gave power to decide all disputed questions of religion. We read in the seventeenth chapter of Deuteronomy, and in the Protestant version (which we have used throughout this tract):

“ If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the Lord thy God shall choose; and thou shalt come to the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire; and *they*

shall show thee the sentence of judgment: and thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the Lord shall choose shall show thee."

Remember that this decision was one of religion, for the law was the law of God.

Again, our Lord himself says: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat; all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do."—St. Matt. xxiii. 2.

In the Mosaic religion, there was

NO PRIVATE INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE,

but a divinely constituted *tribunal* determined religious truth.

From Adam down to the birth of Christ, therefore, we find but one method of coming to the knowledge of the true religion; and this method was to *listen to the voice* of those whom God had appointed to teach it.

In all the ages preceding Christ, *there was no private interpretation*. Now, how did Christ establish His religion, and how did He determine that it should be propagated amongst men?

HE HIMSELF WROTE NOTHING.

He taught, and he did not ask men to examine into his doctrines, but to believe in them. He chose apostles to be His representatives on earth, and to remain, in their successors, until the end of time. What command did he give to them? Did he bid them

WRITE A BOOK,

to be placed in the hands of all, that by reading it they might come to know the truths which he had taught? No. He said to them: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth; go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them

to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." And again he said to them : " He that heareth you heareth me ; and he that despiseth you despiseth me." He thus formed them into a living and indefectible church, of which he said : " If any man neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." This church he built upon a rock, with the promise that the gates of hell should never prevail against it, and that the Holy Ghost should

TEACH IT ALL TRUTH.

Christ, then, *did not change the method* of religious instruction employed by God in the days of Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses ; but, giving to the world a fuller revelation of divine truth, he simply established a more perfect and unerring living authority to watch over and preserve it in all its integrity and purity. Therefore

NOT THE DEAD LETTER OF THE BIBLE,

but the living voice of the divinely established church is the infallible guide to the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

Now, is not this a fair argument ? Do not accuse us of sophistry and perversion of truth. We have nothing to gain by persuading you to believe as we believe ; but you have everything to gain, if you weigh well our argument, and, if you refuse to consider what we say, perhaps everything to lose. For you cannot say the whole matter is doubtful, as long as you refuse to consider a simple statement like this ; if you are thus wilfully careless,

YOUR BLOOD WILL BE ON YOUR OWN HEAD.